COURT GRANTS SHERIDAN STAY

Halts All Proceedings in Newsman's Case

Television newsman Walter Sheridan was granted a last minute reprieve from appearing before the Orleans Parish Grand Jury Friday when the State Supreme Court stayed all proceedings in his case.

The action came on an appeal filed by Sheridan's lawyers Thursday night after Criminal District Court Judge Bernard J. Bagert overruled motions to quash a subpena ordering Sheridan to appear before the grand jury.

Sheridan is sought for questioning by District Attorney Jim Garrison, who claims the newsman tried to bribe a key witness in Garrison's probe of President Kennedy's assassination.

An investigative reporter for the National Broadcasting Company, Sheridan became involved in the case while preparing a documentary on the DA's probe which was aired June 19 by NBC. The documen-

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tary was critical of the Garrison investigation.

The stay order by the Supreme Court came at 11 a. m. Friday only three hours before the grand jury was scheduled to meet and hear testimony by Sheridan. All proceedings were stayed until further orders of the court.

The court also gave Garrison and Bagert until Aug. 8 to file answers to Sheridan's plea for dismissal of the subpena.

The court's order noted that the exact ruling of the district court had not been received as of Friday morning, and therefore the judges were unable to pass on the issue before the scheduled 2 p. m. grand jury meeting.

Garrison has charged Sheridan with the attempted bribery of Perry R. Russo of Baton Rouge.

Russo has figured prominently in Garrison's probe as the man who claims to have overheard a New Orleans plot to kill President Kennedy shortly before he was slain in Dallas by Lee Harvey Oswald. Russo maintained that the plot participants included Oswald; a late aircraft pilot, David W. Ferrie, and New Orleans businessman, Clay L. Shaw.

Shaw is under indictment on the plot charges and is scheduled for trial perhaps later this year.

The NBC program in which Sheridan participated alleged that Garrison's case against Shaw is based in part on perjured testimony by Russo.